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Through Diplomacy, Trade, Culture, Education & Tourism

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DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"To be published soon from UAE, London & Romania"
(For Schengen States)



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**We want to become
undisputed digital life partner
of the people of Pakistan**

Dr. Fan Yunjun, CEO of CMPak Limited



Ramadan delights at the Marquee



The Islamabad Marriott Hotel beckoned diners this Ramadan to experience the true spirit of the Holy Month while enjoying sumptuous Iftar and Sohour selections at the elegant Marquee and the Nadia all-day-dining restaurant respectively. In addition to the Iftar buffet at the Marquee, there were also private venues such as the Crystal Ballroom for corporate iftars and large family gatherings

Diners were able to enjoy a variety of delectable local as well as continental flavors ranging from soups, appetizers, delicious main courses and not to forget the live cooking stations and a plethora of desserts accompanied by a Ramadan drinks corner. The traditional ambience and décor, combined with the attentive service and extravagant buffets created an unforgettable experience for both families and friends during this time of reflection and spiritual devotion. Daily raffles draws were also arranged to keep the guests entertained.



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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

GAZA has become world's largest open air detention center; where Israel's unsystematic bombardment has engulfed hundreds of innocent lives of women and children whereas thousands have sustained severe injuries. Likewise, hundreds of houses, shops, mosques, schools and other civilian buildings have been razed to the earth level. Mutilated dead bodies of children are adequate to know the state of mind of Israel and its strategies towards Palestinian people and respect for Human Rights. This makes no difference to the Israeli Government what the world will think of them as the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu clearly said that they were determined to intensify attacks and maximize civilian casualties in Gaza. At this moment, it is responsibility of United Nations and Organization of Islamic Countries to press Israel ending this heinous crime against humanity. Israel must be stopped otherwise this dilemma could ransack peace in the region.

Military operation Zarb e Azb in South Waziristan is in full swing, according to ISPR insurgents are being abolished and displaced from their sanctuaries. Consequently Miranshah, two important villages of Boya and Degan, which were famous centers of local and foreign terrorists, have been cleared while vicinity of Mir Ali is being cleared. Terrorists' bases situated near the Pak-Afghan border in Tehsil Shawal were hit by fighter planes and four of them were completely destroyed as operation in the area is still underway. Since the start of operation, the Pakistani army has killed dozens of terrorists and destroyed several TTP bomb factories and suicide-bomber training centres. Political leadership and civil society of the country have expressed their satisfaction while world community endorsed the military operation that could help enhance confidence of the government. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief with other ministers visited Pak Army's Headquarters and reviewed operation progress with Chief of Army staff Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Shareef. He assured full support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) as the both Pak army and brave people of FATA rendering remarkable sacrifices for the future of the people of motherland. It is evident that prolong military operations always cause adversity therefore it is imperative to conclude operation timely so that IDPs go back to their areas and restart peaceful and progressive life.



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Ms. Cecilie Landsverk, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Pakistan exchanging a farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Norway: President

President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan attached great importance to its bilateral relations with Norway and desired to strengthen them further for mutual benefit of the people.

Appreciating Norway's long-term partnership with Pakistan in areas of economy, trade and commercial ties, he said these bilateral ties were based on mutual trust and goodwill.

The President was talking to Ms Cecilie Landsverk, Ambassador of the Kingdom of

Norway in Pakistan, who paid a farewell call on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mamnoon said both countries had extended support to each other at various international forums, adding that Pakistan looked forward to continued cooperation in various spheres.

The President said the presence of large Pakistani diaspora of over 40,000 in Norway acted as a living bridge for promoting people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

He appreciated Ambassador Cecilie Landsverk's diplomatic services in bringing Pakistan and Norway closer during her over three years stay here as ambassador.

The President wished the outgoing ambassador good health and success in her future endeavours.

Ms Cecilie Landsverk thanked the President and the Government of Pakistan for the support extended to her during her tenure as ambassador.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was presented guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army on arrival at GHQ. PM and COAS returning salute.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

PM visits GHQ, receives briefing on operation

Nation stands behind Forces in fight against terrorists: Nawaz

Prim Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said the whole nation stood behind the country's Armed Forces who were valiantly waging the battle to bring peace and stability to the country.

The Prime Minister made these remarks during his visit to the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army to get an update on the progress on the Operation Zarb-e-Azb and to pay his respects at the Martyrs Monument (Yadgar-e-Shuhada).

He said the Operation Zarb-e-Azb was meant to establish the writ of the state and expressed the resolve that the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and the intelligence services would continue to work till the elimination of the terrorists from its territory.

According to the PM House, the Prime Minister, accompanied with Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif, Minister for Interior Ch. Nisar, Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq

Fatmi, were briefed on the progress of Operation Zarb-e-Azb and its related stages by the Director General Military Operations.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the operation and said the Pakistan Army was achieving the intended objectives at the desired pace.

The meeting noted with appreciation the successful anti-terror operation in Lahore earlier in the day by the police, on a tip-off by a national intelligence agency.



The meeting noted with concern that there was an issue of effectively prosecuting terrorists in the courts of law as terrorists were not getting convictions which has negative impact on the efforts of the security forces in war on terror. It was agreed that the forces will get full legal backing.

The Prime Minister assured that the government gave high priority to national security and said the Army will be fully equipped and provided all requisite resources to fight this war.

He appreciated Pakistan Army for providing security to the Chinese workers on different projects across the country.

The Prime Minister also directed that damage assessment of the area be

carried out for better and planned resource allocation and for effective reconstruction and rehabilitation. He also directed NADRA for fast-track verification process by employing additional manpower and equipment at Bannu. The meeting was also attended by DG ISI, CGS, DGMO, DG MI DG ISPR and DG Budget.

The Prime Minister has been regularly in touch with the senior military leadership since the launch of the Operation Zarb-e-Azb and is being regularly updated on the successes in the operation, aimed at clearing North Waziristan and other areas from terrorists and to eliminate their hideouts.

On arrival at the GHQ, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel

Sharif received the Prime Minister and a contingent presented him guard of honour.

Prime Minister laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and paid rich tributes to the officers and Jawans who have rendered the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives for the protection of their motherland.

The Prime Minister who earlier held separate meetings with the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Rashad Mahmood and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Asif Sandila at the PM House, discussed professional matters and the ongoing operation.



By Mian Akhtar Hussain

Taxpayers' contribution significant for strong economy: PM

By Mian Akhtar Hussain

taxpayers, each year, who will be getting Excellence Awards by the Prime Minister, access to VIP lounges at airports, fast track clearance at immigration counters, issuance of gratis passports and a baggage allowance enhanced from 500 to Rs 5000 dollars.

"I am addressing to people who have contributed more to the taxes and played a prominent role in revitalizing the economy of Pakistan for the last one year. The ceremony has been convened to acknowledge your services for the nation". The Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said in his address at the launch of Taxpayers' Privileges and Honour Card scheme.

Prime Minister asked to shun the Politics of past era, while referring to some political parties. PM added that now as we have entered the twenty first century yet some the political parties are talking about revolutions. Such actions do not favor the country. Their actions are only meant to destabilize the political progress and democracy", PM told.

The Prime Minister said no one can be permitted to hinder the journey of progress at any cost and urged all political parties to join hands in the government's development agenda for the betterment of the country.

Prime Minister said that Development cannot take place in days nor all the problems can be resolved overnight. We had to take hard decisions in order to put back the economy of Pakistan on track, PM added.

The Prime Minister said the problems that had been piling up for years, could not be resolved in few months and said the government was taking a number of long and short term measures to address all such issues including power shortage. PM said a number of development projects were underway in cooperation with China and expressed the hope that the results would be obvious soon.

PM also cited a number of power generation projects including two power houses of 1300 MW at Port Qasim, 660 MW at Thar, 1300 MW at Jamshoro and enhanced capacity project of 2500 MW at Tarbela dam. PM further said Neelum Jhelum project would also be operational by 2017.

He said there has been an increase of three percent in number of taxpayers in the country, while the fiscal deficit had declined to four per cent. He also mentioned the positive response of investors to the Euro Bonds adding that it speaks volumes about the success of government's economic policies.

Prime Minister said that the green line bus project Karachi is high priority project. "Supply of water scheme and Karachi-Lahore motorway project has also been initiated for Karachi". PM added.

The Prime Minister lauded Ishaq Dar for the increase in the foreign exchange reserves that had increased to Rs 14 billion dollars and hoped it will touch Rs 15 billion dollars mark, as promised by him in next few months.

Earlier while addressing the gathering, Mr. Ishaq Dar said "Privilege and Honour Cards have been issued to 100 top taxpayers in each of the following categories: salaried individuals, non-salaried individuals, Association of Persons and companies."

If every single Pakistani pays his or her tax, the economy would be strengthened. He mentioned that 1, 20,000 persons had been issued notices to non-filers.

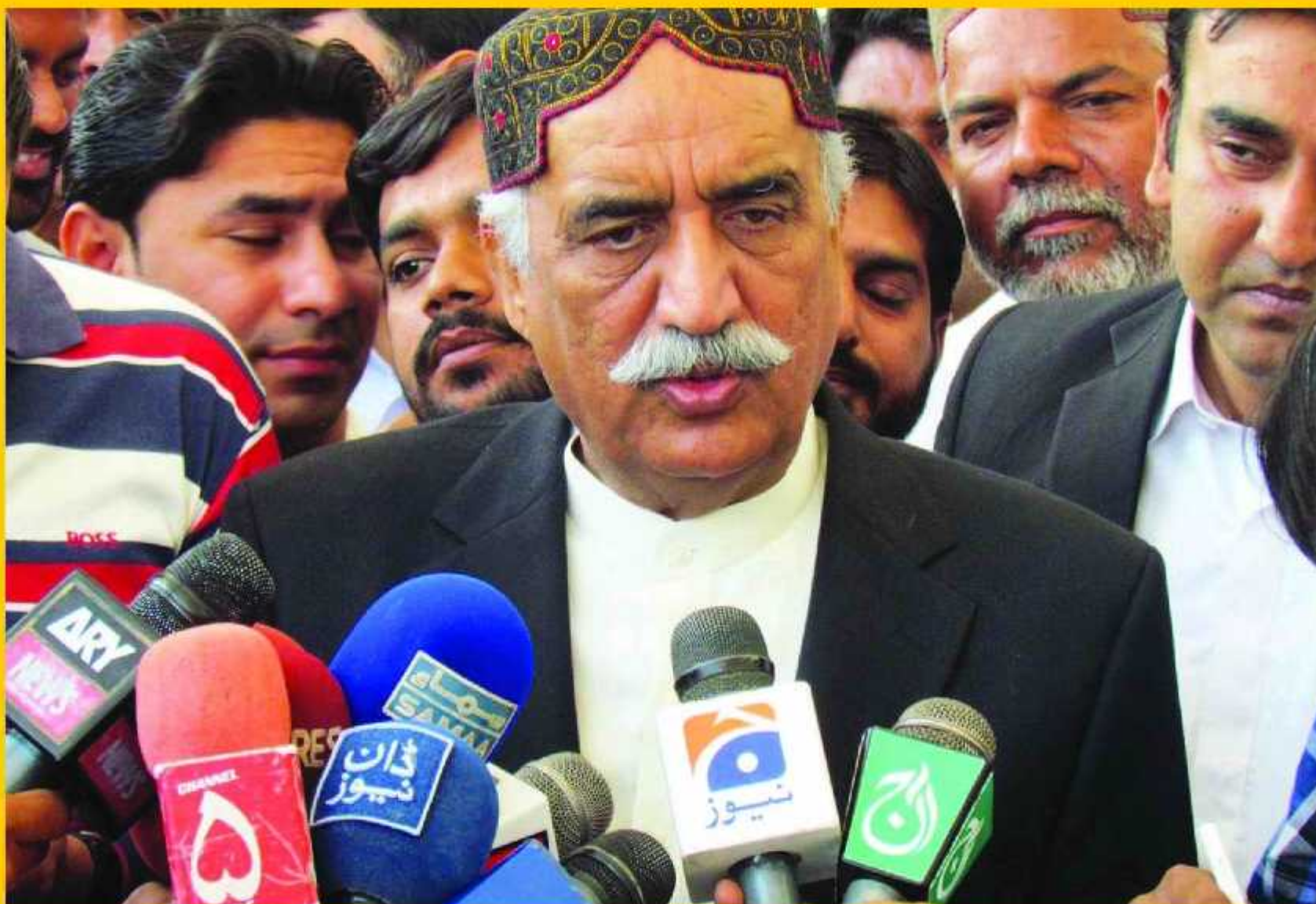
Diplomatic Focus Correspondent

The Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif handed over the Privilege Cards to the top 100 taxpayers of different categories at Prime Minister's office Auditorium. The cards will be valid for one year. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Mr. Tariq Bajwa.

The scheme has been launched to promote a tax-compliant culture in the country and will recognize top 100



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif giving "Tax Honour Cards" to high taxpayers in last financial year in a ceremony held at PM Office Auditorium in Islamabad on July 15, 2014.



IDPs, forces got the whole nation at their back: Shah

By Mian Akhtar Hussain

Opposition leader in the National Assembly, Khurshid Shah, says the fellow countrymen will not leave their internally displaced brethren in the lurch.

"The whole nation has put its weight behind Operation Zarb-e-Azb launched in North Waziristan with an aim to safeguard the entire country", said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader talking to mediamen after visiting an IDP's relief camp.

He saluted the security forces for fighting so valiantly against the scourge of terrorism in the rugged mountains of north.

"Our troops are laying down their lives in the line of duty every day. Their martyrdom should not go in vain," said he.

Shah said that PPP had time and again told the government that democracy must prevail --come what may. "We only want the democracy to endure in the broader interest of the country", said he.

Moreover, A 20-member delegation of

Peoples Doctors Forum KP called on Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Syed Khursheed Shah to discuss free medical camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) of North Waziristan.

The delegation headed by Senator Dr Karim Ahmed Khwaja decided that small scale hospitals and free medical camps would be set up for the IDPs in different areas like Bannu, DI Khan, Kohat and other

areas on immediate basis. Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, the chairman IDPs committee and leader of opposition, extended his full support to Peoples Doctors Forum and proposed them to go to the field and reach the IDPs.

He also assured them full monetary and commodity support in order to provide best possible relief to the IDPs.



**We want to
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**An exclusive interview
of CEO of CMPak Limited,
Dr. Fan Yunjun**



Q: Mr. Fan Yunjun we welcome you and express our gratitude for sparing precious time to interact with Diplomatic Focus team. Kindly share your profile, career and experiences.

A: The pleasure is all mine.

I did my Ph.D. from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, prior to which I was with Smiths Business School, Maryland University for my EMBA.

Before joining CMPak, I spent 8 years as EVP in China Mobile Beijing with specific responsibility of next generation network, marketing and mobile internet. I also worked for the telecommunication assurance for Beijing Olympic 2008, and won 'Special Contribution to Beijing Olympic 2008' and 'Science & Technology Award' by China Association of Science and Technology.

I then joined China Mobile Pakistan Ltd. (CMPak) in the capacity of CEO and Chairman in 2011. Since then I have been focused on developing the telecom industry in Pakistan, and I envision CMPak to be an indispensable digital life partner of Pakistani people. My biggest achievement to date has to be the fact that the subscribers' base of CMPak has increased 3 times from around 8 million to 26 million since I took over.

Q: Pak-China economic relations are very significant to bring prosperity in the region. This cooperation is a symbol of trust; do you think CMPak could play more active role in boosting economic cooperation as well as the level of trust

between the two nations?

A: Pakistan was the first country overseas that CMPak set up in, because of the long-term friendship between both the nations. Setting up a company in a foreign country requires a lot of commitment and time, but the Pakistani government made the entire process very easy for us and it is something that we are grateful for.

Since we stepped into Pakistan, the country has seen tremendous rise in the telecom sector and boasts of being the fastest growing mobile market in Asia with

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74% mobile penetration. Over the years CMPak has invested heavily in infrastructure, jobs for the locals and CSR initiatives, which show of the trust we both enjoy with each other. We also became the first telecom company to pay off our license fee to the PTA for the 3G and 4G Network. In our own way, we have been a part of our brother's (Pakistan) growth and will continue to support it through thick and thin.

Q: What is the vision and mission of CMPak and to what extent it has

achieved its goals particularly in the perspective of Pakistan?

A: Our vision is to become the undisputed digital life partner of the people of Pakistan. A tall order, yes, but nothing is impossible if you work hard to achieve it. In just 7 years, Zong has become the 3rd largest Telecom Network with a customer base of 26 million, and now we look to increase this number even further, until we are at the very top.

Our goals also include introducing some of China Mobile's popular services to the benefit of the people of Pakistan. In China, our services like M-Education and our Agricultural services have a total of 56 million users, and we feel we can introduce these in Pakistan as well. We have an established business and technical model of our services in China, which we plan to introduce with some small customization in Pakistan too.

With the launch of our 'Super 3G' services and the soon to be launched 4G services, we have reached one of our core goals of providing modern communications technology to our customers. Our next goal has to do with finding a solution to the high cost of 4G devices in Pakistan. It is a relative concern for us, as we want the masses to enjoy this high speed 4G internet on their smartphones, but the pricing of these devices will push them away.

Q: In order to abide by the rules and regulations of the PTA, what are the policies of the company and how it follows the guidelines of the government?

A: The provision of services by CMPak Ltd. is governed by the laws of Pakistan. Moreover, Determinations/Decisions/Instructions of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) – the statutory body with the function of regulating the telecommunication industry in Pakistan – issued from time to time are strictly followed by the company, applied to our services and duly communicated to our customers as well.

Q: Would you like to highlight salient features of CMPak that differentiate it from other Cellular companies.

A: CMPak is a very cultural diverse company, which has been one of the reasons of our rapid growth, and is a huge differentiating factor from other mobile operators in Pakistan. We believe that Human resource is the most creative and valuable asset of the company, and is the foundation of enterprise development. We successfully launched our corporate culture of 'one company one team, and one dream' and synergized the Pakistani and the Chinese staff to use their cultural advantage and diversity for the benefit of the company.

Another feature differentiating us from the competition is our pledge to value our customers and always be on the lookout for innovative ideas to enhance their experience. We are pragmatic when it comes to our innovative approach and to be honest, at CMPak everything is about innovation as we believe that: it is our social responsibility, it ensures long term sustainability and growth, and only by innovation can unique and differentiated services/products be offered to the customers.

Q: CMPak, in a very short span of

time, grabbed the attention as well as the confidence of people despite cut throat competition among the telecom companies. Do you think tough time is ahead; what is your comment?

A. Honestly speaking the success we have achieved in Pakistan has been way more than our initial expectations, but that doesn't mean we sit back and enjoy our laurels. I firmly believe that one should never take things lightly, and same is the case with CMPak. The road might look conventional and leisurely, but it is always full of bumps and sharp turns. Working in a country like Pakistan is never easy, and you can never be sure if things will turn out the way you have planned. The country faces economic issues, thus business

automatically becomes challenging. Then the energy crisis greatly restricts our spending, as 80% of our resources are spent on providing energy to our BTS sites. Add to these the occasional strikes, security situation and inflation, then Pakistan is a country with a high operation cost, but we have strategies in place which help us maneuver around the unforeseen circumstances. So whatever the future holds for us, I believe we are ready to cope, and grow simultaneously.

Q: After getting licenses of 3&4G, how CMPak sees the future of telecom industry and what are the technical bottlenecks or challenges in flaw free execution of 3&4G?

A. The future of ICT seems to be very prosperous and this industry has enjoyed an annual growth rate of more than 10% in the past decade. Pakistan is a country which has the fastest growth in mobile penetration in Asia, and I can see this trend rising and simultaneously shifting towards a greater number of smartphone users due to the device's ease of availability, pricing and the host of 3G services.

Prosperity aside, there are a certain issues which need to be resolved for a smooth growth period in the industry. Pakistan's back haul and transmission network is still not good enough to support high-speed internet. We need to upgrade this microwave to the IP enabled microwave to support 3G/ 4G, and we also need to build fiber from BTS to the tower. This is the reason why we were patient with the initial launch of the services, and one of the reasons as to why we are launching these services in different phases. Then, as mentioned before, I believe the power crisis is one huge challenge which needs to be addressed for the smooth working of high-speed mobile internet connectivity. Another issue is the non-availability of affordable 4G devices in the country. To counter this, we have set up special packages with Huawei handsets for our customers, and are also looking to bring in handset manufacturers to Pakistan for mass production of low cost 4G devices. China Mobile already spends a lot on research and development of 3G/4G handsets and pretty soon we will follow the same initiative in Pakistan.

So if we work very smartly, and collectively, I believe we can build a very good network, and create the strongest ecosystem to support our business and the people of Pakistan.

Q: Customers often raise questions regarding fair usage policies of telecom companies as transparency is a matter of interest. Would you like to express any comment on CMPak's fair usage policy?

A. CMPak keeps its subscribers updated





about their usage and accounts (both prepaid and postpaid). We have given the authority to our subscribers to self-monitor their usage details by giving them access to E-Care for both prepaid and postpaid on the website. By accessing these portals our customers are able to comprehend their balance consumption, billing, and to perform activities like blocking and unblocking of their respective numbers.

Zong also informs the customers when they are getting low on balance. A prepaid subscriber is intimated by a recording of insufficient balance, on dialing every call, when he reaches the limit of Rs.10 in his account and through an SMS when his account balance becomes lower than Rs.5.

Similarly our postpaid subscribers, upon reaching 90% of their credit limit, are sent an intimation SMS to make them aware about their usage and billing.

Q: What is your future planning to enhance CMPak structure in Pakistan? And how you maintain the quality and

progress of the company simultaneously to satisfy the customers?

A. We never cease to grow as a company with constant innovation being key to success. We shall continue innovating our services, organizational structure (with the need of the hour), the customer experience and our recruitment policies. This shall ensure the best possible deal being offered to the customer, from the telecom services to customer relations.

Q: Being a Chinese national you have spent time in Pakistan and interacted with Pakistani people so how you find them?

A. I very much enjoy spending time with my Pakistani friends and colleagues. Thanks to them I haven't missed my extended family back home as much as I would have. You Pakistanis are very friendly, and I enjoy the delightful conversations you guys can strike up at any time.

Q: Would you like to give any message to your customers about the services and ambitions as the CEO of the company?

A. Zong has been working to promote innovation and excellence but what really sets us apart from rest of the industry is our commitment to the communities we operate within. For Pakistan, CMPak's conviction is even stronger because of the friendly ties between the two countries. Our company is one example of the China-Pakistan friendly exchanges which are rooted in history and the all-round cooperation between the two countries, which has stood the test of the changing global environment.

I would like to use your platform to thank you, the customers of Zong, for showing loyalty to the brand over the years, and being patient whenever need was arisen. In return, we have always looked to acknowledge your support by providing you the best and most innovative telecom services in the country, with 3G & 4G being a huge precursor to that commitment. I promise you even greater innovations in the communications arena from our side in the coming years.



Pakistan's First & Only 4G Operator

Zong is committed towards providing fastest mobile internet and best 3G/4G network in Pakistan.

Message from Chief Commercial Officer, CMPak





Pak, Afghan agree to strengthen Mutual Coordination

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to evolve a mechanism to ensure better coordination at their common borders.

A high-level eight-member delegation of the Afghan military visited the Pak army's general headquarters.

The Afghan delegation was led by Major General Afzal Aman Director General Military Operation (DGMO) with representatives from the Afghan National Security Council (NSC), Afghan military intelligence and Afghan border police.

The Pakistani side was headed by Major General Amir Riaz, DGMO Pakistan Army. A detailed briefing was given on border coordination mechanism.

Issue of cross border shelling, terrorists sanctuaries in Kunar and Nuristan provinces of Afghanistan and attack on

Pakistani border village and posts from those sanctuaries also came under discussion.

The Afghan delegation was told that Pakistan only fires back in self defence when Pakistani border posts are physically attacked or fired upon by terrorists from Afghan territory and no indiscriminate firing is carried out.

The meeting was held in a cordial, congenial and professional atmosphere.

Both sides agreed to build further trust, continue to talk under all circumstances and evolve a robust and effective bilateral border coordination mechanism.

Both sides agreed to meet next meeting for which scheduled is being finalized.

The delegation is expected to visit the Pak-Afghan border along with Pakistani military officials to assess exact situation at the

border.

Earlier, a foreign office official had said during a media briefing that Pakistan would urge Afghan authorities to take action against Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts based on Afghan territory and not give them space to plan their operations.

Responding to a question, the official had ruled out any possibility of "hot pursuit" inside Afghanistan against TTP hideouts, saying Pakistan respected Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The official had said that Pakistan would like to work closely with the new Afghan government and wished for a peaceful and smooth transition of power in Kabul.

"Pakistan has no favourites in Afghanistan and is playing its role with neutrality," the official had maintained.



Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in a meeting with US Principal Deputy Special Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan Elizabeth Jones, in Islamabad.

US Principal Deputy Special Representative to Pakistan & Afghanistan reviews geo-political situation of the region with Interior Minister

US Principal Deputy Special Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Ambassador Elizabeth Jones called on Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan.

The meeting discussed the overall geo-political situation of the region, which was also attended by US deputy Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Williams.

The Minister said that greater cooperation and coordination between Pakistan and US is important for regional peace and security. He expressed his confidence that international community will be conscious of the interests of Pakistan especially in the Post-2014 scenario.

He said that Afghanistan is passing through crucial part of its history and hoped that there would be the positive outcome of Afghan elections, both for Afghanistan and for the entire region.

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said that Pakistan government is committed to work closely with new incoming government in Kabul for regional peace and stability.

He said that it is very important for the success of ongoing military operation "Zarb-e-Azb" in North Waziristan that international forces and Afghanistan government also take simultaneous concrete actions to root out the safe sanctuaries of terrorists operating in Afghan territory.

Expressing his satisfaction on bilateral relations, the Federal Minister said that Pakistan is committed to further strengthening these relations based on mutual respect and understanding.

Progress of different working groups operating under ongoing Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and the US was also discussed in the meeting and it was agreed that inter ministerial meeting in this regard will be convened in near future. Ambassador Elizabeth said that the US government is committed to further enhance its institutional support and cooperation in different fields especially in

the fields of counter terrorism and policing.

She also appreciated role of Pakistan in regional peace and said that US views the government of Nawaz Sharif as a trusted and reliable partner for pursuit of peace and added that multi-faceted relations with Pakistan will further gain strength under his leadership.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



US Principal Deputy Special Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Elizabeth Jones called on Federal Minister for SAFRON Lt Gen (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch in Islamabad on July 11, 2014.



Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Elizabeth Jones-Principal Deputy Special Representative to Afghanistan & Pakistan Ambassador US Dy. Chief of Mission Thomas Williams, Ms. Sarah M. Beran - US Economic Counselor in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Prime Minister of AJ&K Chaudhry Abdul Majeed presenting a cheque of Rs. 20 Million to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for PM's Relief Fund for IDPs at PM House Islamabad.



Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Minister for Petroleum and Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum, hands over a cheque of Rs 200 Million for IDPs to Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad.



Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif exchanging views with Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.



Chinese Ambassador Sun Weiding presenting a cheque of Rs. 5 million to Federal Minister for SAFRON, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch for Prime Minister's Relief fund for IDPs in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Water & Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif talking to Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of European Union Delegation to Pakistan at Islamabad.



Mr. Janan Masazai, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan called on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaj Muhammad Asif and Minister for State for Water and Power Ch. Abid Sher Ali attending Financial Closing Ceremony of 50 MW Wind Power Project in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan led by Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq attending the briefing at the British Parliament House.



Federal Minister for State for Frontier Regions, Lt. Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Balouch receiving memento from President FPCCI at Federation House, Karachi.



Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Secretary BISP presenting BISP's memento to Ms. Judith Herbertson, Acting Head of Department for International Development of the UK Government (DFID) at BISP Secretariat. Chairman BISP M. Enver Baig also present on the occasion.



Chairman Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, exchanging views with President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad.



Commercial Counselor of US Embassy talks to Minister of State for IT, Anusha Rahman in Islamabad.



Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq Leader of the House in the Senate addressing a seminar on Palestine issue, in Islamabad.



Dr. Miftah Ismail Special Assistant to Prime Minister / Chairman Board of Investment meets with Ms Farah Water's delegation UK in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting on facilitating Pak-Iran trade at the Finance Ministry, Islamabad.

Pak envoy to Germany visits Lord Mayor of Munich to converse bilateral cooperation



Pakistan Ambassador to Germany, Syed Hasan Javed with the Lord Mayor of Munich, Mr. Dieter Reiter at Munich and the Honorary Consul for Pakistan in Bavaria, Dr. Pantelis Christian Potis.

Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Syed Hasan Javed called on the Lord Mayor of Munich, Mr. Dieter Reiter at Munich City Hall and discussed the possibilities of commercial and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and the capital city of Bavaria. The Ambassador said that the geo-strategic positioning of Pakistan was poised to make it an economic and commercial hub of the region in near future. It is the best time for

German businessmen to invest and intensify commercial partnerships for better returns on their investment in Pakistan, he added. The Ambassador also emphasized the need for opening up more opportunities for Pakistani students to get higher education in German universities, especially located in Munich. The Lord Mayor assured the ambassador that the city Government of Munich would extend full cooperation to the Pakistan Mission for

any commercial and cultural activity aimed at broadening the commercial partnership as well promoting the cultural relations between Pakistan and the people of Munich. Ambassador also presented a book on 'Churches of Pakistan' and a box of mangoes from Pakistan to the Lord Mayor on this occasion, says a press release received here today from Germany.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Syed Hasan Javed with the President of the German Parliament (Bundestag), Dr. Norbert Lammert and other members of the German Parliament in Berlin.



Pakistan Ambassador to Germany, Syed Hasan Javed presenting a gift of Pakistan Mangoes to the Lord Mayor of Munich, Mr. Dieter Reiter at Munich.

KPK Govt. Announced Pakistan's first ever 'Mineral Policy 2014'

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced Pakistan's first ever 'Mineral Policy 2014'.

Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chief Imran Khan addressed the participants at the launching ceremony which was held at the elegant Marquee of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel.

He said that the main objective of the provincial government was to utilize all its resources for the human development adding that the purpose of the mineral policy was to attract local and foreign investors in the mineral sector of the province. Other prominent personalities who addressed the ceremony were KP Chief Minister, Pervaiz Khattak and Provincial Minister for Mineral Development, Ziaullah Afridi.





Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Parliamentarians and Acting High Commissioner Imran Mirza on the occasion of Iftar dinner at Pakistan High Commission London.

NA Speaker stresses collaboration between Pakistani and British Parliament

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stressed for exploring possibilities of joint collaboration between the National Assembly and House of Commons in Legislative Drafting, Rules of Business and other Parliamentary Practices. He expressed these views while meeting with Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow at the House of Parliament, London.

Talking to his British counterpart, he briefed him on the new initiatives taken by him in order to improve the performance of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He

informed about the National Assembly's Strategic Plan through which the capacity of the Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff would be enhanced. The Speaker also informed them about the introduction of subject/course on Parliamentary Practices and Legislative Drafting in universities and educational institution all over the country. The Speaker also informed regarding the steps taken for austerity measures in the National Assembly Secretariat, adoption of electrification requirements through solar energy and establishing paperless office. Earlier he presented the One Year

Performance Report to his British counterpart.

Speaker John Bercow welcomed the Pakistani delegation and showed keen interest in knowing the working of the Pakistani Parliament. He appreciated the prudent leadership of the Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for initiating austerity measures and introducing different mechanism for the development of his Secretariat. Both the Speakers shared their experiences in the Chair when they have to keep the delicate balance between the Treasury and the Opposition. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq praised



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Workshop for South Asian Women Parliamentarians at the Portcullis House in London.

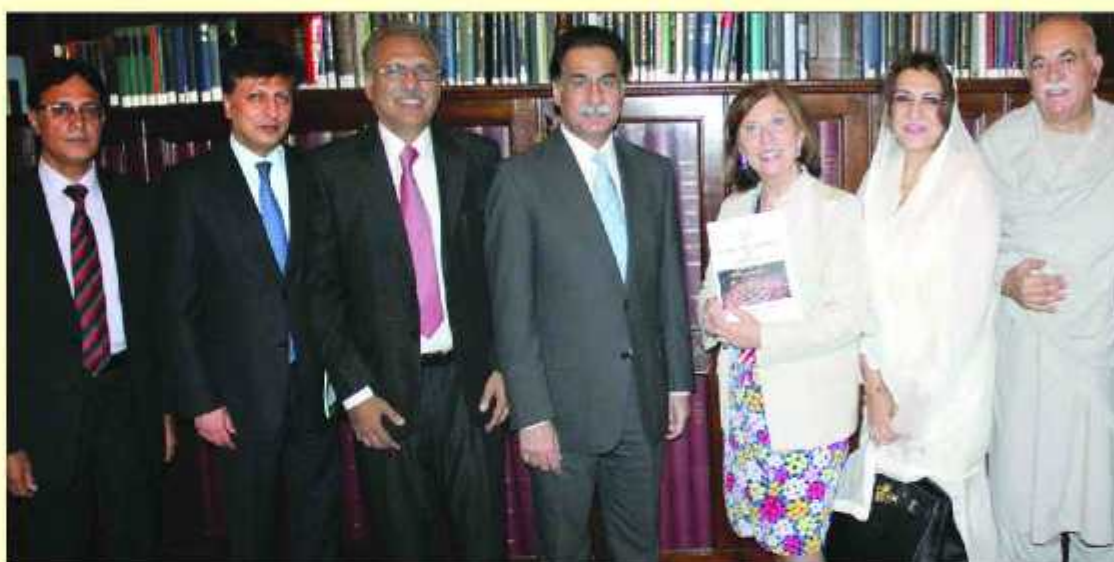
the British tradition of not contesting against the Speaker. He invited his British counterpart to the 2015 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) General Assembly in Pakistan to which the latter agreed to attend. Besides, the delegation also attended briefings on UK's Audit System, Parliamentary Outreach and Speaker's Parliamentary Placement Scheme.

During their meeting with Lord Speaker of the House of Lords Baroness D'Souza, both sides discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation between their respective Parliaments. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq informed Baroness D'Souza that following the British Parliamentary Studies Program, National Assembly of Pakistan had also developed its own program which was being dove-tailed into Pakistani system. The two sides agreed to continue sharing their experiences in future as well.

The delegation found their briefing at the UK's National Audit Office very useful and informative. Similarly they found several commonalities and yet a great potential for learning from Speaker's Parliamentary Placement Scheme. The two sides also discussed exchange of internees between the two Parliaments. The Pakistani delegation comprises MNAs; Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Raja Javed Ikhlas, Dr. Darshan and Dr. Arif Alvi. Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



Speaker of the House of Commons RT Hon John Bercow MP shaking hand with Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the House of Commons in London.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with the Pakistani delegation in a group photo with Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza at the House of Lords in London.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Women Parliamentarians of South Asia at the Portcullis House in London.

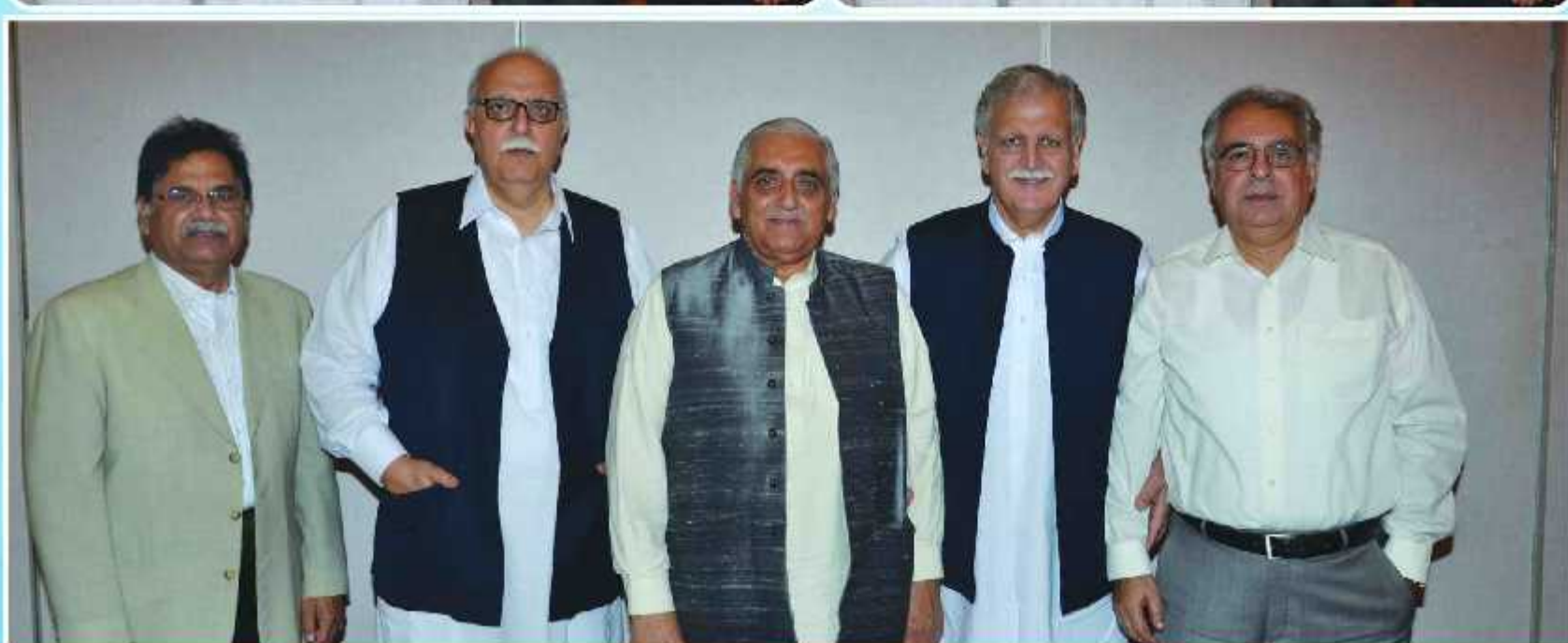
The Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco H.E. Mustafa Salahdine hosts farewell, Iftar Dinner in the honor of outgoing Ambassador of Tunisia H.E Mr. Mourad Bousehla at Sheesh Mahal Hall, Serena Hotel, Islamabad





Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan Senator, Director of Saifullah Group hosted an Iftar Dinner at Serena Hotel, Islamabad along with Anwar Saifullah, Co-Chairman of the Saif Group of Companies, Salim Saifullah, and Jawald Saifullah. On the occasion Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Zahid Hamid and former foreign minister Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, and Umer Ayub Khan were also present.







Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk, Chief Justice Designate along with other Judges of Supreme Court Presenting Shield to hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani on the Eve of his Retirement in Supreme Court, Islamabad

HCJP bids farewell to Justice Tassaduq Hussain

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk bade farewell to Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, Former Chief Justice of Pakistan at Chief Justice of Pakistan House at Islamabad.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk laid the foundation of good tradition by bidding farewell to Former Chief Justice of Pakistan who laid down the robes of his office on 05.07.2014. Both the dignitaries also exchanged pleasantries.



Chairman Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari exchanging views with Italian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani at Parliament House, Islamabad.

Bokhari for enhanced trade links with Italy

Chairman Senate Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari underscored the need for more trade and business links between Pakistan and Italy to boost the economy and bringing the people of the two sides more closely. He expressed these views while talking to Mr. Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani, Ambassador of Italy at Parliament House.

The Senate Chairman stated that Pakistan highly values its bilateral relations with Italy and we desire to further enhance mutual cooperation in different fields. He said that Pakistan offers conducive environment for investment and the Italian investors can invest in different sectors particularly energy, textile and others.

He further said that Pakistan and Italy share common perceptions about regional and international issues and both sides were supporting each other at international fora. He acknowledged the Italian

support in GSP Plus. The Chairman Senate also emphasized more cooperation at parliamentary level to strengthen bilateral relations and pave the way for cooperation in many fields. Earlier the Italian envoy informed the Chairman Senate about the existing scope of cooperation and said that potential exists for investment in oil and gas and other sectors he said that Pakistani community in Italy is playing a very positive role. He agreed with the views of Chairman Senate for enhanced linkages at Parliamentary, business and trade level. Both sides also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and bilateral significance. The Ambassador thanked the Chairman Senate for warm welcome at Parliament House. **Diplomatic Correspondent**



British High Commissioner exchanging views with Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

British High Commissioner, Finance Minister evaluate bilateral matters

By Sajid Ali Zaidi

Mr. Philip Barton, British High Commissioner to Pakistan called on the Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Finance Ministry.

The High Commissioner discussed matters of mutual interest with the Finance Minister. He apprised the Finance Minister that the United Kingdom strongly supports Pakistan's efforts in fight against terrorism. He said that the international community will provide necessary assistance to Pakistan to meet the challenges of huge internal displacement of people from the areas of operation. He added that "we

stand behind you in this struggle". He assured the Finance Minister that his Government will continue to support IDPs through World Food Program and other UN agencies.

The Finance Minister informed the High Commissioner that as a result of prudent economic policies of the present government, the economy is moving in the right direction. He said that after the first year of firefighting, the economy is now in a comfortable situation.

The Finance Minister also informed that there has been vast displacement of

people from North Waziristan Agency and the Federal Government is fully determined to extend all humanitarian support to assist and rehabilitate the displaced persons. He said that almost more than half a million residents of the agency have been displaced and the government is utilizing all available means to assist them.

The meeting was also attended by Rana Assad Amin, Advisor to Finance Ministry and Mr. Shahid Mahmood, SA to Finance Minister and other senior officials of the Finance Ministry.



Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing to meeting on Pak-Iran Trade.

Inter-ministerial meeting held to review Pak-Iran trade

The Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on facilitating Pakistan- Iran trade, within the ambit of UN sanctions, at the Finance Ministry.

The Finance Minister said that during the Prime Minister's visit to Iran, both the sides had reaffirmed their commitment that while remaining within the ambit of UN sanctions, mutual trade and cooperation will be enhanced with barter trade and commodities exchange mechanism. He said that we need to build mutual confidence to overcome the impediments in barter trade and commodity exchanges facilities enabling the two countries to benefit from their proximity and neighborhood.

Finance Minister said that we need to clear the impediments in mutual trade before the holding of Joint Economic Commission which is scheduled in this quarter. The two sides will discuss about 50 agenda items at the upcoming JEC meeting and implementation of the outstanding agenda items by both sides will result in strengthening of economic ties between the two countries and bilateral trade. The meeting was informed that the western countries negotiations with Iran are also at an advanced stage of settlement and we should be well prepared and adopt a common approach to tackle issues related to Pakistan-Iran trade.

The Finance Minister directed the Finance Secretary to hold a meeting of all the stake holders and suggest practical measures to

move forward on barter trade and opening of border crossings between the two countries. It was further decided that the Ministry of Commerce and TCP will review the exportable surplus of various commodities in consultation with the Iranian side and present a report in a follow up meeting to be held in the third week of this month.

Finance Secretary Dr. Waqar Masood, Governor State Bank, Mr. Ashraf Wathra, Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Mr. Shahzad Arbab, Commerce Secretary, Rana Assad Amin, Economic Advisor to Finance Ministry and senior officials of the Ministries of Commerce, Finance and TCP also attended the meeting.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



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Huawei Host Iftaar Dinner Reception In Marriott Hotel Islamabad







This shameful injustice in GAZA

For the third time in five years, the world's fourth largest military power has launched a full-scale armed onslaught on one of its most deprived and overcrowded territories. Since Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip began, just over a week ago, more than 200 Palestinians have been killed. Nearly 80% of the dead are civilians, over 20% of them children. Around 1,400 have been wounded and 1,255 Palestinian homes destroyed. So far, Palestinian fire has killed one Israeli on the other side of the barrier that makes blockaded Gaza the world's largest open-air prison.

But instead of demanding a halt to Israel's campaign of collective punishment against what is still illegally occupied territory, the western powers have blamed the victims for fighting back. If it weren't for Hamas's rockets fired out of Gaza's giant holding pen, they insist, all of this bloodletting would end. "No country on earth would tolerate missiles raining down on its citizens from outside its borders," Barack Obama declared, echoed by a mostly

pliant media. Perhaps it's scarcely surprising that states which have themselves invaded and occupied a string of Arab and Muslim countries in the past decade should take the side of another occupier they fund and arm to the hilt.

But the idea that Israel is responding to a



hail of rockets out of a clear blue sky takes "narrative framing" beyond the realm of fantasy. In fact, after the deal that ended Israel's last assault on Gaza in 2012, rocketing from Gaza fell to its lowest level for 12 years. The latest violence is

supposed to have been triggered by the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers in the occupied West Bank in June, for which Hamas denied responsibility. But its origin clearly lies in the collapse of US-sponsored negotiations for a final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the spring.

That was followed by the formation of a "national reconciliation" government by the Fatah and Hamas movements, whose division has been a mainstay of Israeli and US policy. Israeli incursions and killings were then stepped up, including attacks on Palestinian civilians by armed West Bank settlers. In May, two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead by the Israeli army with barely a flicker of interest outside the country. It's now clear the Israeli government knew from the start that its own kidnapped teenagers had been killed within hours. But the news was suppressed while a #Bring Back Our Boys campaign was drummed up and a sweeping crackdown launched against Hamas throughout the West Bank.

Over 500 activists were arrested and more than half a dozen killed – along with a Palestinian teenager burned to death by settlers. Binyamin Netanyahu's aim was evidently to signal that whatever deal Hamas had signed with Mahmoud Abbas would never be accepted by Israel. Gaza had nothing to do with the kidnapping, but Israeli attacks were also launched on the strip and Hamas activists killed. It was those killings and the West Bank campaign that led to Hamas resuming its rocket attacks – and in turn to Israel's devastating bombardment.

Hamas is now blamed for refusing to accept a ceasefire plan cooked up by Netanyahu and his ally, the Egyptian President Sisi, who overthrew Hamas's sister organisation the Muslim Brotherhood last year and has since tightened the eight-year siege of Gaza. But having already suffered so much, many Gazans believe no further truce should be agreed without the lifting of the illegal blockade which has reduced the strip to hunger and beggary and effectively imprisoned its population.

As the independent Palestinian MP Mustafa Barghouti puts it, the Egyptian proposal was a "game" Israel will now use to escalate the war. Some sense of what can now be expected was given by the Israeli reserve major general Oren Shachor, who explained: "If we kill their families, that will frighten them." The idea that Israel is defending itself against unprovoked attacks from outside its borders is an absurdity. Despite Israel's withdrawal of settlements and bases in 2005, Gaza remains occupied both in reality and international law, its border, coastal waters, resources, airspace and power supply controlled by Israel.

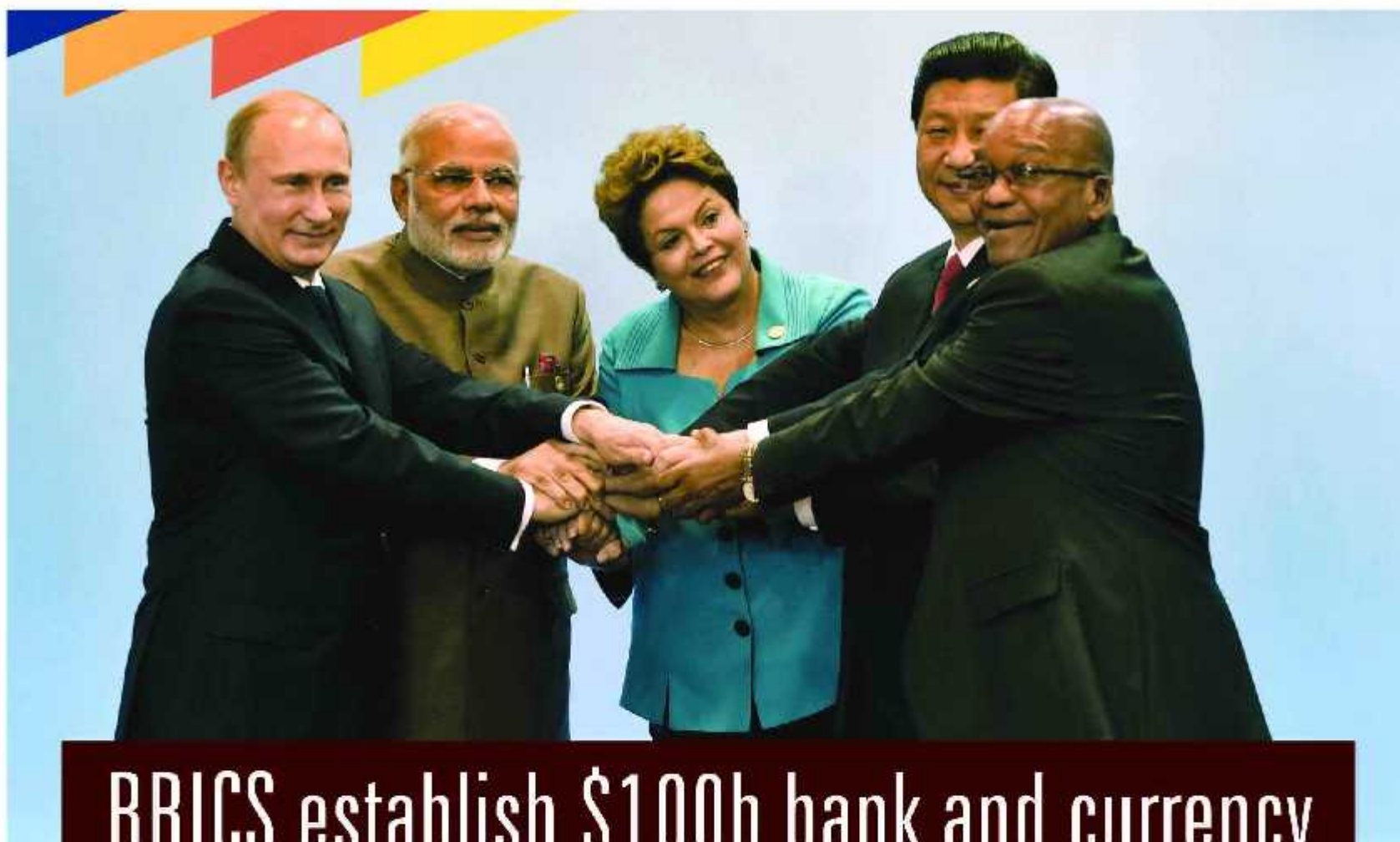
So the Palestinians of Gaza are an occupied people, like those in the West Bank, who have the right to resist, by force if they choose – though not deliberately to target civilians. But Israel does not have a right of self-defence over territories it illegally occupies – it has an obligation to withdraw.

That occupation, underpinned by the US and its allies, is now entering its 48th year. Most of the 1.8 million Palestinians enduring continuous bombardment in Gaza are themselves refugees or their descendants, who were driven out or fled from cities such as Jaffa 66 years ago when Israel was established. It can't seriously be argued that Israel's refusal to withdraw from the rump of the territory on which the United Nations voted to establish a Palestinian state in 1947 is because of rocket fire. It was after all during the period of quiescence over the past year that the Israeli government rejected the US plan for even a figleaf of a two-state solution – and stepped up illegal colonisation. As Netanyahu made clear this week, there cannot be "any agreement in which we relinquish security control" of the West Bank.

So we're left with a one-state solution, operated on ethnically segregated apartheid-style lines, in which a large section of the population has no say in who rules over them, indefinitely. But it's folly to imagine that this shameful injustice will continue without an escalating cost for those who enforce it. Palestinian resistance is often criticised as futile given the grotesque power imbalance between the two sides. But Hamas, which attracts support more for its defiance than its Islamism, has been strengthened by the events of the past week, as it has shown it can hit back across Israel – while Abbas, dependent on an imploded "peace process", has been weakened still further.

The conflict's eruptions are certainly coming thicker and faster. Despite heroic Israeli efforts to fix the narrative, global opinion has never been more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. But the brutal reality is that there will be no end to Israel's occupation until Palestinians and their supporters are able to raise its price to the occupier, in one way or another – and change the balance of power on the ground.





BRICS establish \$100b bank and currency pool to cut out Western dominance

Leaders of the BRICS emerging market nations launched a \$100 billion development bank and a currency reserve pool in their first concrete step toward reshaping the Western-dominated international financial system.

The bank aimed at funding infrastructure projects in developing nations will be based in Shanghai and India will preside over its operations for the first five years, followed by Brazil and then Russia, leaders of the five-country group announced at a summit.

They also set up a \$100 billion currency reserves pool to help countries forestall short-term liquidity pressures.

The long-awaited bank is the first major achievement of the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - since they got together in 2009 to press for a bigger say in the global financial order created by Western powers after World War Two and centered on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The BRICS were prompted to seek coordinated action following an exodus of capital from emerging markets last year, triggered by the scaling back of U.S. monetary stimulus. The new bank reflects the growing influence of the BRICS, which account for almost half the world's population and about one-fifth of global economic output. The bank will begin with a subscribed capital of \$50 billion divided

equally between its five founders, with an initial total of \$10 billion in cash put in over seven years and \$40 billion in guarantees. It is scheduled to start lending in 2016 and be open to membership by other countries, but the capital share of the BRICS cannot drop below 55 percent. The contingency currency pool will be held in the reserves of each BRICS country and can be shifted to another member to cushion balance-of-payments difficulties. This initiative gathered momentum after the reverse in the flows of cheap dollars that fueled a boom in emerging markets for a decade. "It will help contain the volatility faced by diverse economies as a result of the tapering of the United States' policy of monetary expansion," Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said.

"It is a sign of the times, which demand reform of the IMF," she told reporters at the close of the summit.

China, holder of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, will contribute the bulk of the contingency currency pool, or \$41 billion. Brazil, India and Russia will chip in \$18 billion each and South Africa \$5 billion. If a need arises, China will be eligible to ask for half of its contribution, South Africa for double and the remaining countries the amount they put in. Negotiations over the headquarters and first presidency were reached at the eleventh hour due to differences between

India and China. The impasse reflected the trouble Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have had in reconciling stark economic and political differences that made it hard for the group to turn rhetoric into concrete action.

"We pulled it off 10 minutes before the end of the game. We reached a balanced package that is satisfactory to all," a Brazilian diplomat said.

Negotiations to create the bank dragged on for more than two years as Brazil and India fought China's attempts to get a bigger share in the lender than the others. In the end, Brazil and India prevailed in keeping equal equity at its launch, but fears linger that China, the world's No. 2 economy, could try to assert greater influence over the bank to expand its political clout abroad. China, however, will not preside over the bank for two decades. Facing efforts by leading Western nations to isolate Russia for annexing Crimea and stirring revolt in eastern Ukraine, the BRICS summit provided President Vladimir Putin with a welcome geopolitical platform to show he has friends elsewhere, economic powers seen as shaping the future of the world.

The BRICS abstained from criticizing Russia over the crisis in Ukraine and called instead for restraint by all actors so the conflict can be resolved peacefully. **Agencies**

Pakistan for refining UN

Peacekeeping Command and Control



Pakistan has called for refinement and improvement in United Nations peacekeeping command and control arrangements that would enable the field missions deployed in hotspots around the world to deal with violent situations more efficiently and effectively. While acknowledging that the system was generally sound, Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, underscored the need for evolving and adapting the concepts and doctrine of command and control to complex and multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"The peacekeeping command and control requires determination, direction and deployment of optimal strategic direction of political, military and civilian assets," he said while participating in a discussion sponsored by Ireland's United Nations Mission to review the successes of command and control arrangements of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Masood Khan recommended selection of professionally competent commanders having adequate operational experience to handle UN assets and troops with UN experience a pre requisite.

He called for avoiding too much political interference in military matters, saying that things could go awry because of the dual key decision making. Masood Khan proposed closer involvement of the principal troop contributors, which include Pakistan, in the elaboration of the concepts of operations and the operational plans as also in the drafting of missions' mandates.

He pointed out that countries in the Security Council that decide on the mandates were not necessarily the ones which contribute troops. "In the execution of robust missions in complex environments commanders are increasingly dealing with asymmetric warfare and motley of spoilers who include rebel groups straddling across vast national territories and regional neighbourhoods," he said.

He said interposition of a UN peacekeeping force between two disciplined armed forces is becoming a rarity. "While pursuing the mandates to protect civilians in volatile environments, effective command and control is crucial to repulse local attacks, handle large scale emergencies such as the one in Goma in 2012, ensure safety and security of peacekeepers and protect civilians," he said.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott sign an agreement on the transfer of defence equipment.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian counterpart Tony Abbott signed an economic partnership pact as well as an agreement on military equipment and technology transfers, a week after Abe loosened curbs on Japan's military.

Earlier Abe told Australia's parliament that the two nations were launching a "special relationship" of cooperation on areas such as defence after putting aside any lingering enmity from World War Two.

Abe, warily eyeing China's rapid military build-up and more assertive claims to islands held by Japan in the East China Sea, has been courting governments from Canberra to

Southeast Asia in recent months.

China is Australia's largest trading partner.

"The door for dialogue is always open from the Japanese side so I do sincerely hope that the

Chinese side also take the same posture," Abe told

a press conference after signing the Japan-Australian Economic Partnership Agreement.

"China along with Japan and Australia should play a greater role for peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region," he said.

The military deal "will make the first cut engraving the special relationship in our future", Abe earlier told a joint parliamentary session, the first such speech by a Japanese leader.

Mirroring a partnership concluded with Britain a year ago, it will establish a framework for industrial cooperation that could pave the way for a deal on building a fleet of stealth submarines for Australia.

Abe has been forging a more assertive defence

and security posture in his year-and-a-half in office.

In April, he eased a four-decade ban on military exports, which could allow Japan to ship submarine components or even completed vessels to Australia.

A week ago, Abe's cabinet reinterpreted the pacifist constitution to allow Japan's military to defend friendly nations under attack.

"As a nation that longs for permanent peace in the world, and as a country whose economy is among the biggest, Japan is now determined to do more to enhance peace in the region and peace in the world," said Abe.

ABBOTT HAILS STRATEGIC PARTNER: Abbott hailed the Japanese leader's pledge to build a more robust military. "For decades now Japan has been an exemplary international citizen, so Australia welcomes Japan's recent decision to be a more capable strategic partner in our region," he told parliament before Abe spoke.

Australia is looking for partners to build a fleet of 4,000 ton-class quiet-running diesel-electric subs to help extend its maritime surveillance deep into the Indian Ocean. Their presence could also help Japan keep better tabs on Chinese activity.

The United States, which is also closely allied with Australia, has also welcomed Abe's shift, saying it would make the US-Japan alliance more effective.

Abe has sent his defence minister, Itsunori Onodera, to Washington to discuss the changes.

China, which says Japan has failed to atone for its wartime aggression and is seeking to whitewash history, has been sharply critical of Abe's moves.

Speaking at an event on Monday to commemorate the 77th anniversary of a skirmish that sparked war with Japan, Chinese President Xi Jinping condemned Japan's wartime atrocities and criticised those who "who ignore reality, move against the tide of history".

Monitoring Desk



Japan, Australia sign free trade, defence deals

Efforts to promote Pak-Japan bilateral trade, investment

Pak Ambassador Farukh Amil meets Chairman Oita Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)



Pakistani's Ambassador to Japan, Farukh Amil in a group photo with the Chairman, President and Officials of Oita Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in Tokyo.

Ambassador Farukh Amil called on Chairman and President of Oita Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) to discuss promotion of bilateral trade and seek investment in Pakistan. Oita is the home to major companies such as Nippon Steel, Toshiba, Daihatsu and hi-tech and pharmaceuticals industry. It is also a centre of Japanese alternative and renewable energy.

The Ambassador outlined Pakistan's priorities of energy, infrastructure especially transportation and small and medium dams. Describing Oita as a 'city of the future', the Ambassador stressed the importance of clean, renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources, particularly geo-thermal and solar. Chairman OCCI welcomed Pakistan's interest in these areas and said that increased awareness and interaction and joint ventures would help develop business ties. The Ambassador reiterated that a level playing field should be provided to Pakistan on market access issues. He invited OCCI members to participate in Expo-14 in Karachi.

Chairman OCCI welcomed the visit of the Ambassador to highlight opportunities in Pakistan. He said continuous interaction would be very productive for business communities in both countries. He expressed keen interest in Pakistan and advised that a country specific seminar on Pakistan be held in conjunction with OCCI at Oita. While explaining the activities of OCCI, he highlighted the role of Oita as the pre-eminent city of Japan leading in its initiative towards green power generation. He supported the Ambassador's idea to establish institutional linkages between OCCI and its corresponding trade organizations in Pakistan as a way to strengthen and improve respective business interests and awareness.

Diplomatic focus Correspondent



Pak Ambassador to Japan visits Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Ambassador Farukh Amil visited Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University at Beppu. During a meeting with the President of the University Mr. Shun Korenaga and senior Faculty, the Ambassador suggested the establishment of formal links with universities in Pakistan with a view to securing places for Pakistani students to study at Japan's premier English-language University and the exchange of Faculty and researchers. The proposals were warmly welcomed. After a separate meeting with Pakistani students to hear their views, he gave a lecture in the Auditorium on Pakistan-Japan relations. Later he joined the students and community members for Iftar.





Barack Obama and a farewell to trust



What did the president know and when did he know it? Such was demanded of Richard Nixon, who resigned 40 years ago. In no sense can US President Barack Obama be morally compared with the man who brought the US Watergate.

Obama is neither a crook nor a liar. But Obama shares one problem that can cripple what remains of his presidency — most people no longer trust

him. The sentiment spans foreign allies as well as domestic critics. When trust goes, respect is seldom far behind.

The most surprising example is Germany. It was in Berlin in 2008 that then senator Obama had unveiled his global promise — an America that could once again be trusted. Germans no longer believe it. In the wake of the “friendly spying” ring allegations, less than 40 per cent of Germans consider the US a trustworthy partner, according to one survey.

Senior German figures cannot agree whether Obama was unaware of Washington’s double agents, or dissembling. Either way, when Obama spoke to the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, the day before the initial revelations, he did not raise it. It was enough to make you want to cry, said Wolfgang Schauble, the Finance Minister. Never before has a close US ally expelled a CIA station chief.

Mistrust is a nebulous concept. In the case of Nixon, people rightly suspected he was crooked. In the case of Obama, it is based on the perception that he is ineffectual. His words are so rarely joined to deeds. The net result is not radically different.

When Obama promises something will happen — say a tightening of data surveillance safeguards or a drive to overhaul US immigration policy — people are no longer inclined to take him at his word. They may believe he means what he says. But they do not trust his ability to deliver.

There are Republicans who will swallow any number of preposterous stories about Obama — that he has used the Internal Revenue Service to hound conservatives or has plans to liquidate old people in order to control health care costs. But the conspiracy theorists have been around

since the day he took office. What has changed is the mindset of ordinary people. Most Americans say they no longer personally trust Obama. And fewer than 30 per cent express trust in the office of the presidency.

Obama’s instinct has been to march away from the sound of gunfire. On the one hand, he has made it known that he hates being in Washington. From now on, Obama will take every opportunity to get out into the real world, say aides.

On the other, he blames the messenger for his predicament. Obama says he enjoys interacting with ordinary people, as opposed to the “cynics” who live in Washington, including the US media. The word now crops up in nearly every speech. “It’s easy to be cynical, in fact these days it’s kind of trendy,” he said. “Cynicism is a choice and hope is a better choice.”

Journalism has more than its fair share of cynics, but most reporters are better described as sceptical. A cynic believes there is nothing new under the sun. A sceptic resists gullibility. On the basis of the latter, Obama does not appear to relish being chief executive.

According to Mark Knoller, who chronicles the habits of US presidents, Obama has now played golf 179 times — considerably more than George W. Bush, his golf-loving predecessor. Obama dislikes spending time with fellow politicians, but he seems happy to attend endless fundraisers.

He has now clocked up 393 fundraising events since becoming president, almost double that of Bush. If Obama puts half as much effort into co-opting or wrongfooting his opponents as he does raising cash from the wealthy, people may be less sceptical.

It is not only journalists who remember Obama’s pro

mise in 2008 to limit his spending to public funding on condition that his Republican opponent agreed to do the same. Sure enough, his opponent (John McCain) accepted the deal. By then, Obama had discovered his great flair for raising money. He dropped the offer.

Nixon’s aides were caught laundering illegal campaign funds and imprisoned for it. Obama’s methods are legal and transparent. They are like night and day, but nobody expected better from “Tricky Dicky”. Obama, on the other hand, made large ethical claims — that he would change the tone in Washington, that he would restore America’s moral authority in the world and that he would drive big money out of politics.

If you seek an explanation for why Obama riles so many voters — and not just Tea Party conservatives — the perception of double standards is at the root of the problem. Leaders who make grand moral promises set themselves up for a fall. If they cannot live up to them, the backlash is all the greater.

That is why Obama is so often compared to Jimmy Carter. For all his turpitude, Nixon was good at working the machinery of state to get things done, some of them very impressive. Even when they disagree, people want action from their leaders, rather than explanations for inaction. Nixon’s actions were sometimes heinous. Obama’s are often innocuous.

“When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal,” Nixon told David Frost. “If I do something, it is moral,” Obama appears to believe. Except when it is not moral, which brings on greater disillusion. Call it Obama’s Germany syndrome.

Saudi Arabia hands over 10m doses of Polio vaccine to Pakistan

By Sajid Ali Zaidi

In a ceremony held at the Federal EPI, the acting Ambassador of Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia handed over more than 10 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine to the National Programme Manager EPI. This vaccine will be utilized to vaccinate travelers in the light of International Travel Regulations regarding Polio endemic countries.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pledged to donate the polio vaccine to Pakistan in the side meeting held during the World Health Assembly in April 2014 with the State Minister for Health, MoNHSR&C.

The vaccine will fulfill the vaccination requirement of Pakistani travelers for almost a year. National Programme Manager on behalf of the Ministry of National Health Services and Government of Pakistan thanked Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the support in most needed times when Pakistan is striving hard to eradicate polio from the country and save the lives of its children.

His Excellency, Jassim Mohammad Al-Khaldi, Acting Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reiterated his commitment to support for Pakistan and prayed for the country to be free of polio at the earliest.

The ceremony closed with signing of the document and physically handing and taking over of the vaccine along with media briefing.



Representative of Saudi Government handing over 10 million Polio Vaccination doses to Pakistan in Islamabad on July 11, 2014.



French envoy eager to expand trade relations with Pakistan

Philippe Theibaud, Ambassador of France to Pakistan called on the Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar. The Ambassador briefed the Finance Minister about his country's desire to expand trade relations between the two countries and an increased interest by the French companies to invest in Pakistan.

He said that during the last fiscal year, there was foreign direct investment to the tune of \$74 million by French companies in different sectors. He said that the Government of Pakistan's reform agenda with regard to economy is impressive and the results show that considerable progress has been made in this direction. He added that we are also very positive on GSP status and exports from Pakistan

which will lead to enhancement of trade and economic co-operation.

He informed that the French companies have made investments in Uch Gas Powered energy Project and now they are also looking for other energy related opportunities to enhance their investments. Moreover, he added, French companies are also interested in automobile assembly projects and water and sanitation sector.

The Ambassador informed the Finance Minister that under the arrangement of the French Embassy, a Pakistani business delegation had a very useful visit to Paris in the last month of current year and now there are plans to bring in French businessmen group to Pakistan in the first

quarter of next year. He concluded that his country will be looking forward to enhance economic exchanges.

The Finance Minister informed the Ambassador that managing the broken economy at a time when the new government took over one year ago was a daunting task but as a result of prudent economic policies of the government and guidance of the political leadership, the economy is moving in the right direction now. He said that after the first year of firefighting, we have put the economy on the right track and now we are in a comfortable situation to take forward our reform agenda.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent

Mr. & Mrs Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotel hosts iftar dinner at Sheesh Mahal Serena Hotel







Photo by Ramzan Mughal

Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO/Editor Diplomatic Focus hosts farewell Iftar Dinner in the honor of H.E. Mr. Mourd Bourehla, Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan at Serena Hotel Islamabad







By Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

UAE National Compulsory Military Service (CMS)

Most recently United Arab Emirates (UAE) President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan promulgated a law relating to Compulsory Military Service (CMS) for all Emiratis aged between 18 and 30 and setting up a new national defence and reserve force. The issuing of the law comes with the goals of affirming the instilling of the values of loyalty, affiliation and sacrifice in the souls of the sons of homeland. It is hoped that CMS will implant the values of allegiance, loyalty, discipline and sacrifice among youth.

Military Recruiting Systems (MRS) refer to institutional

arrangements which are used to absorb certain quantity, quality and structure of the military manpower to meet the needs of the nation's defense.

Basically there are two models: compulsory military service (conscription) and all volunteer force (or mercenary). Some countries have combined these

two models which was known as 'hybrid military service system.

UAE Unique Model of Self-Defence

Although the government of Qatar approved a draft bill making it compulsory for males to enlist for military service for a period of up to four months but UAE recently announced compulsory military service is a unique model of self defence. Kuwait, is also considering drafting legislation calling for mandatory military service.

According to UAE official reports/ National Service some 7,000 citizens, comprising the first batch of Emirati recruits,



will be called up for CMS by the beginning of September, 2014. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (June, 2014) estimates the size of the UAE armed forces at 51,000, with an army of 44,000, navy of 2,500 and air force of 4,500. Now after the incorporation of compulsory military service this tally will be increased.

Strategic Vision

The issuance of Federal Law No.6 for the Year 2014, on the national military service and reserve force, is a practical translation of the strategic vision of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of U.A.E. Armed Forces, and their keen attention to the interests of national youth and their future.

Uplifting Strategic Goals

CMS represents milestone in UAE national history. The law contributes to achieving many diversified strategic targets which include protecting the UAE, maintaining its independence, sovereignty and achievements and enhancing the capabilities and efficiency of the armed forces. The CMS contributes to protecting the UAE and preserving its sovereignty and achievements and reflects positively on young people. It is necessary to familiarize the UAE young people in an early stage with the nature of the national service and its benefits to each of them.

Utility of CMS

It teaches male citizens to be more responsible for themselves and their families. It promotes healthy competition in the society. Citizens would become





stronger not only physically, but mentally as well. It has far-reaching effects on the society, and system. Non-monetary benefits stand for the psychological benefits and the loss-of-time value. Army Service (AS) benefits include immediate service benefits and the expected return. Immediate monetary benefits include salaries, benefits, family preference, retirement benefits and so on. For non-monetary benefits, the military service not only obtains material benefits, but also receives psychological and spiritual benefits, which constitutes an individual's utility function together.

Aims and Reasons of Compulsory Military Service (CMS)

The law aims to instil values of loyalty and sacrifice in the hearts of the citizens, linking them with the teachings of religion and the socialisation of different generations in terms of leadership characteristics, physical power and self-reliance, responsibility and discipline, respect of law, and time. National service would further consolidate and develop youth through scientific and practical training.

According to many national and regional research centers and prominent scholars aims and reasons of UAE CMS are multidimensional. It has national demands and regional compulsions. It has multiplier socio-political and geo-strategic effects. UAE is geographically situated at the center of one of the world's least politically stable regions, with several neighbors who seem always on the brink of war. So,

compulsory military service is a well-planned and strategic oriented program.

UAE has a territorial dispute with Iran, over its three islands. It is also wary of a neighborhood fraught with conflicts, including Syria, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories. Keeping in view all the emerging socio-political and geo-strategic scenarios in the region and beyond the Gulf, CMS is the best choice because "self defence is the best defence".

Wide spreading of terrorism waves in the region starting from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon to Iraq in shape of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and the al-Nusra Front all pose serious security challenges to all the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries. UAE's visionary leadership timely announced the incorporation of CMS in order to cope with all the state and non-state threats.

Eligibility Options

It is hoped that introducing CMS will not only help the Gulf States build up their troops, but it will also decrease reliance on foreign support during peacetime. It is a well-planned and thoroughly studied policy and which help serve the nation. The law is in accordance with the principles of the U.A.E. Constitution, as referred to in Article No. 43, which states that defending the Union is a sacred duty of every citizen and national service is an honour for citizens as per the law.

- I. Emirati men who have finished secondary school or aged between

18-30 will have to serve nine months

- II. Emirati men who have not finished secondary school will serve two years.
- III. The service will be optional for women, who may be trained for nine months, regardless of their education.
- IV. Citizens who fail to enlist for military service without valid reason until they reach 29 years of age will face a jail term of between one month and a year, or a fine ranging between Dh10,000 and Dh50,000 or both. They will have to undergo the military service even if they exceed the age limit of 30.
- V. Executive rules will spell out alternative services and security training where these services can be offered and terms for exemption from military service for medical or other reasons.
- VI. For recruits who are appointed in federal departments, local departments, and the private sector during their national service will be considered as service for their benefit in these departments and sectors. The national service period will also be considered for their promotion and bonus benefits in their work place. The national service period will be included in the recruit's actual job service for payments, pension, and other

benefits.

Conclusion

The Compulsory Military Service (CMS) law will act as a distinct and positive community development process by enhancing loyalty to the country. CMS is a real step towards raising the awareness of Emirati youth to national principles, preserving the country's achievements and strengthening patriotism, as well as boosting discipline. CMS could instil in young people qualities such as discipline, vigilance, resilience and modesty. It could also teach them skills including team work and time management. Moreover, since warfare is the mechanism, method, or modality of armed forces therefore models of Switzerland, Finland and Norway may also be studied to widening the scope and utility of UAE CMS.

CMS will lead Emiratis to have a stronger sense of responsibility towards their nation and also a greater awareness of the challenges facing the UAE by training them to be ready to fight to protect the nation and preserve its independence and sovereignty from any external attack.

It may speed up the national drive of Emiratization in the country. It will definitely increase the youth employment. CMS will create jobs quickly, but it will also change the prevailing culture of societal alienation, unrest and political polarization. It would make Emiratis to be

more competitive in the job market where, through national service, they can be taught skills and educated to a higher level regardless of social background.

The CMS promotes unity and solidarity. It would improve the national physical health too. It will create strong personalities and will tackle all negative aspects in society, which have been appearing recently. Serving your land is of great value and the youth will feel like they are part of a team that will protect the country from any risks and threats.

CMS speaks to an awareness of the needs of the homeland and the requirement for significant individual and communal capabilities and competences with which to face contemporary challenges. CMS will certainly enhance the UAE's defense capabilities and raise the self-confidence of its youth. Enhancing the country's defense capabilities will provide a level of security and stability that will be of great benefit to the nation and the continuation of its successful developmental path in accordance with its aspirations and plans.

The concept of national security is not a new phenomenon. It is not confined to strategic and military dimensions of effective responses to potential threats against a particular state. It also relates to encompass economic, environmental, cultural and other aspects, ensuring the

stability, growth and prosperity of society. National Security is heavily dependent on its military services.

Stability is a multidimensional subject and a concept. Stability promotes sustainability which is crucial for achieving high ratios of socio-economic goals. It also guarantees national sovereignty, and peace. It upholds spirits of cohesion, social and cultural homogeneity. It is a complete package which requires certain sets of legal, judicial and security tools and procedures. Ultimately it increase the strength of the state in the comprehensive sense and reflect positively both on the degree and quality of its productivity and on people's living standards and national compulsory service is one of the effective tool to maintain national stability.

Compulsory Military Service has a strategic application too. The strategic security environment is characterized by uncertainty, complexity, rapid change, and persistent conflict. This environment is fluid, with continually changing alliances, partnerships, and new national and transnational threats constantly appearing and disappearing. The strategic security environment presents broad national security challenges. Hopefully, UAE's CMS will achieve high standards of marital preparedness, knowledge of state-of-the-art weaponry and technological advancement in the different fields of armed forces in the days to come.



RIS AND HASHOO FOUNDATION UNDERGO STRATEGIC COLLABORATION



Roots International Schools, one of the exclusive schools that entered into MOU with Hashoo Foundation, RIS team conceived the idea of undergoing into a collaboration with one of the largest non-profit organization leading the way in human development and poverty alleviation by implementing viable economic development, educational and capacity-building programs in Pakistan. The companies agreed upon introducing social campaigns and educating the youth



about the running issues of society. Mr. Ali Akbar Country Director Hashoo Foundation Pakistan and Mr. Walid Mushtaq CEO Roots International Schools signed the MOU paving a pathway toward a collaboration, cooperation and corporate linkage.

The event took place today in the head office of Hashoo Foundation where the team of RIS was given a warm welcome. This MOU signing is a Historic event for both the organizations as it marks Pakistan's success towards better educational, economic, commerce and social entrepreneurship.

The scope of this MOU is to make provisions for a possible alliance between the parties to carry out their individual contribution toward the development of

educational and social sector in Pakistan. By facilitating this event RIS will be able to continue towards the betterment of the society. Mr. Ali Akbar being a parent himself was impressed by the broad based curriculum and quality of education in RIS as he had known organization through years of its conception.

CEO, Roots International Schools Mr. Walid Mushtaq, who is a devoted Pakistani Educationist, running one of Pakistan's largest education systems takes another step towards promotion of prosperity of Pakistani students and a better future for the youth by facilitating this MOU signing ceremony.

According to the MoU the students of RIS shall be given workshops aiming at inculcating the values of humanity and social service along with health care conducted by top professional of Hashoo Foundation whereby in return the staff of HF shall be provided with a good discount on quality education for their children at the campuses of Pakistan's largest chain of schools i.e. Roots International Schools. Students shall gain hands on experience by working in various department of Hashoo Foundation under the guidance of professionals. The young leaders of tomorrow shall attain practical experience of Business Initiatives. He said that the voluntary experience with Hashoo Foundation will be a milestone in their career. This MOU commits us to work more closely towards our common goal,



the pursuit of the internationalization of education. Each side will pursue many significant activities, such as the promotion of educational and academic exchange between organizations, educational institutions and individuals; the promotion of study opportunities, assistance to support study and educational opportunities, to those seeking information and scholarships, seminars, workshops, internships and placements in the corporate sector and conferences in academia and corporate world. Through our efforts and commitment, we will be able to achieve more and to be able to continue towards the betterment of the society through student growth.



Roots international Schools Wellington Campus

Here are some snaps of the grandeur of Roots International Schools Wellington Campus. The newly built impressive structure is a hub of avant-garde amenities available to the students to create a fun-learning atmosphere. Adorned with the ultramodern facilities and 21st century classrooms RIS enables the students to enjoy the fun in learning.



H. E. Jasper Moller, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan hosts Iftar dinner in Islamabad



Football enthusiasts enjoy spectacular Live Screening of FIFA World Cup 2014 at Serena Hotel



SERENA HOTELS

CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani hosted a live screening for the FIFA World Cup Final at Islamabad Serena Hotel as the latest venture in Serena Hotels' increasingly popular Sports Diplomacy Initiative. The hotel pulled out all the stops for the event; before the screening, guests were invited to score penalty shots in goals set in the Hotel courtyards. A popcorn machine and a steady array of assorted snacks provided football enthusiasts with something to chew on as the tension quickly became palpable in the packed hall. An excited crowd erupted in cheers when Germany finally scored a goal as the game moved into overtime. Ambassador to Pakistan from Argentina Honourable Rodolfo Martin Saravia was also present for the live screening.

Serena Hotels have been extensively involved in organizing and facilitating sporting events that serve as a cultural platform for community members to exchange and share views regarding social development. Under the banner of the Sports Diplomacy Initiative, Serena Hotels have hosted four golfing events; two in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the prestigious President of Pakistan Gold Medal Golf Championship 2014. They also hosted Islamabad's first ever Polo match at the recently inaugurated Islamabad Club Polo ground.

Most recently their Adventure Diplomacy Initiative has been taken to new heights as Samina and Mirza Ali Baig – Pakistan's intrepid mountaineering siblings – come closer to establishing a new world record –

conquering seven of the world's highest summits in seven continents. The siblings have recently conquered their sixth summit, Mount Denali in the United States and are currently on their way to Russia where they will summit Mount Elbrus. They are expected back in July 2014 – to great national fan fanfare.

Next on the calendar is the famous polo tournament in Gilgit Baltistan, as well as upcoming cricket, squash and tennis tournaments.



H. E. Mr. Essa Abdullah Al Bash Al Noaimi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates hosts Iftar Dinner at Islamabad Serena Hotel





H.E. Mr. Emilian Ion, Ambassador of Romania hosts farewell iftar dinner in the honor of H.E. Mr. Mourad Bourehla outgoing Ambassador of Republic of Tunisia at Serena Hotel, Islamabad







Huawei Host Iftaar Dinner Reception In Marriott Hotel Islamabad





Ch Asif, CEO Vertex International hosts Iftar dinner for business community and diplomats





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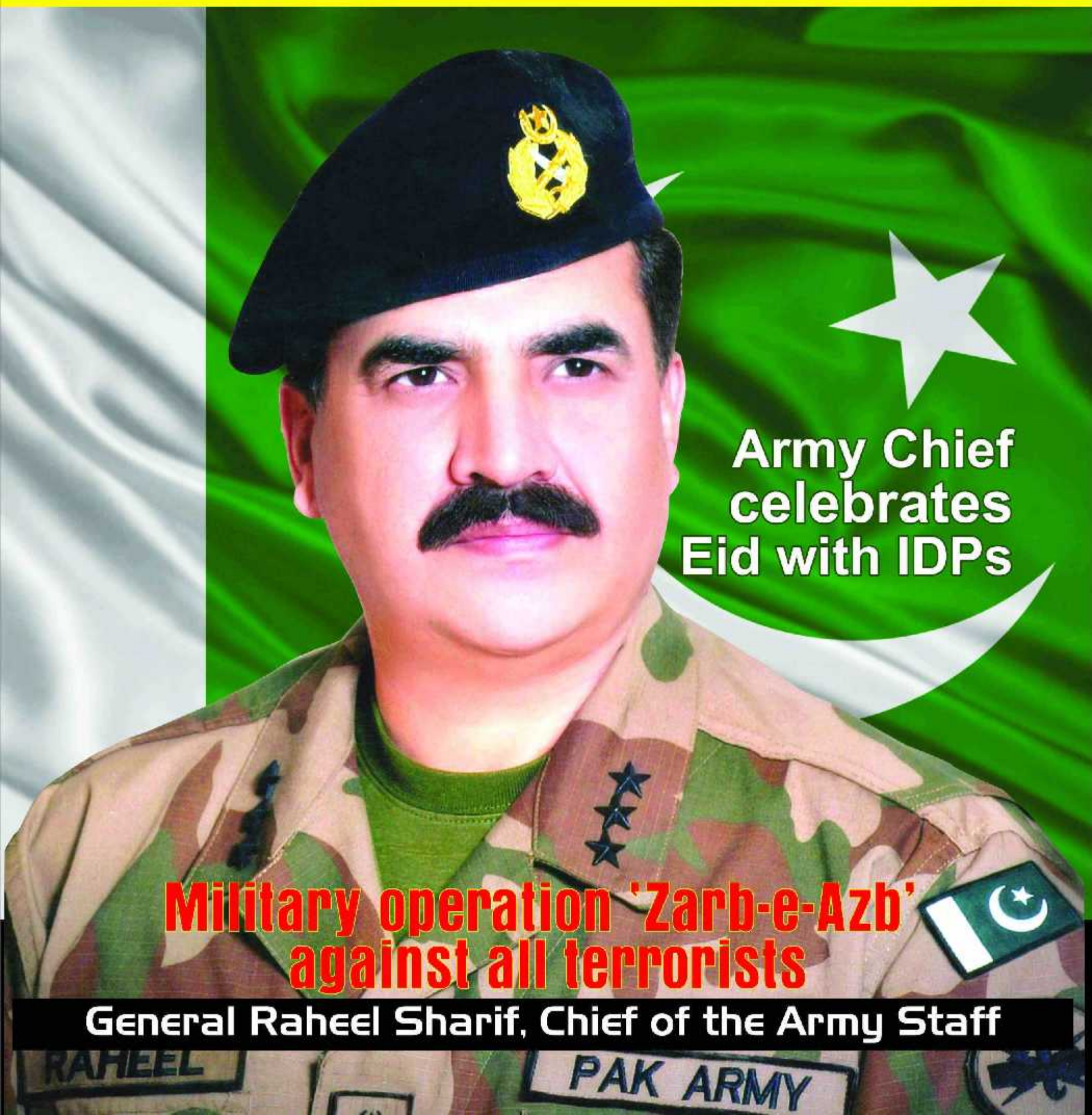
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**Army Chief
celebrates
Eid with IDPs**

**Military operation 'Zarb-e-Azb'
against all terrorists**

General Raheel Sharif, Chief of the Army Staff

RAHEEL

PAK ARMY